

President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akaev. President Akaev was in the our country for the opening of the session of the United Nations and also traveled to Utah to discuss the reforms taking place in his country and to talk about the efforts his nation is taking in the war on terrorism. Today we face a global war against terror, a war we cannot win alone. It is in that spirit that we should recognize and support democracies worldwide, particularly those burgeoning democracies for which freedom is a new concept. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan, is just such an example.

A small country of 5 million in Central Asia, the Kyrgyz Republic has been one of the most progressive countries in the region, especially amongst the countries which once made up the former Soviet Union. Plagued by an inflation rate of 88% in the year 1994, Kyrgyzstan under the leadership of President Akaev was successful in carrying out a number of market reforms, which allowed it to lower that inflation rate to 15 percent in just three years.

President, Askar Akaev was first elected in October of 1990 and is internationally recognized for his promotion of science, human rights and democracy world wide. He has received many International Awards, including the Grand Cross of the Order of Liberty and Unity from the Association for Unity Latin America in 1995, the Prize of Javaharlal Neru's International Foundation for Unity also in 1995, the Prize of Crans Montana World Forum in 1996 and the North American-Kyrgyz Business Councils International Leadership Award in 1997. More recently, however, President Akaev's wife and first lady, Mairam Akaeva was awarded an honorary doctorate by Utah Valley State College during a trip to the United States late last month. She is also internationally known for her efforts with women and children, spreading the value of education, which is highly regarded in the Kyrgyz Republic, which enjoys a literacy rate of 98 percent.

I thank President Akaev's commitment to the war on terrorism and express our gratitude for providing a military base for our troops in his country. There are a number of companies with operations in the region that have helped supply our troops with what they need to prevail.

As we continue to search for allies in this critical region of the world, it is important to commend those who are trying and slowly succeeding with new found freedoms and economic opportunities.

#### BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that late last night the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2714 with the Leahy-Hatch amendment to reauthorize the highly successful Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest

Partnership Grant Program. I thank the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, for joining me on this amendment. This bipartisan legislation now goes to the president for his signature into law.

Our amendment contains the same legislative language as the Campbell-Leahy-Hatch Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003, S. 764. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 15, 2003, and has been awaiting consideration by the House of Representatives since then.

This measure marks the third time that I have had the privilege of teaming with my friend and colleague Senator CAMPBELL to work on the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. We authored the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act of 1998, which responded to the tragic Carl Drega shootout in 1997 on the Vermont-New Hampshire border, in which two State troopers who did not have bulletproof vests were killed. The federal officers who responded to the scenes of the shooting spree were equipped with life-saving body armor, but the state and local law enforcement officers lacked protective vests because of the cost.

Two years later, we successfully passed the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, and now we will go 3-for-3 this time around. Senator CAMPBELL brings to our effort invaluable experience in this area and during his time in the Senate he has been a leader in the area of law enforcement. As a former deputy sheriff, he knows the dangers law enforcement officers face when out on patrol. I am pleased that we have been joined in this effort by 12 other Senate cosponsors, including Senator HATCH.

Our bipartisan legislation will save the lives of law enforcement officers across the country by providing more help to state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase body armor. Since its inception in 1999, this highly successful Department of Justice program has provided law enforcement officers in 16,000 jurisdictions nationwide with nearly 350,000 new bulletproof vests. In Vermont, 60 municipalities have been fortunate to receive funding for the purchase of 1,905 vests.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003 will further the success of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program by re-authorizing the program through fiscal year 2007. Our legislation would continue the Federal-State partnership by authorizing up to \$50 million per year for matching grants to state and local law enforcement agencies and Indian tribes at the Department of Justice to buy body armor.

We know that body armor saves lives, but the cost has put these vests out of the reach of many of the officers who need them. This program makes it more affordable for police departments of all sizes. Few things mean more to

me than when I meet Vermont police officers and they tell me that the protective vests they wear were made possible because of this program. This is the least we should do for the officers on the front lines who put themselves in danger for us every day. I want to make sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

#### HONORING FAVORITE TEACHERS

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, nearly 4,000 Minnesotans honored their favorite teacher at my Minnesota State Fair booth this summer. I would like to honor these teachers further by submitting their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Forest Lake Senior High School—Alan Anderson, Charles Anderson, Ann Astrup, Rena Benedict, Lee Anne Brockman, John Buck, Jamie Bullock, Julie Busby, Tiffany Busby, Sara Cameron, Julianne Carver, Charles Chalberg, Benjamin Chamberlain, Jenny Coates, Michael Coffee, Colleen Collins, Coleen Colton, Mary Colvin, Anne Dahl, Robert Dettmer, Judy Dittberner, Diane Dugas, Terryl Eikren, Nancy Ellias, Patrick Ellias, Chad Erichsrud, Megan Espe-Och, Alesa Fabini, Benjamin Fisher, Daniel Forsythe, Kristin Gorczynski, Charles Gunderson, Heather Guy, Richard Hahn, Larry Harris, Sara Hartman, Elizabeth Haven, Henry Hebert, Holli Hebl, Dana Herman, James Herman, Judy Hill, Thomas Hipkins, Kristine Hovland, Jennifer Hreha, Susan Jarrett, Ryan Johnson, Joseph Jurasin, Maria Kaiser, Paul Karlsson, Janelle Kendrick, Anthony Kowalewski, Gail Law, Bruce Leventhal, Jeffrey Lewis, Marcus Lewton, James Lindstrom, David Livermore, Laura Livermore, Robyn Madson, Christine Magnan, Robert Marzlof, Larry Matzdorf, Tracy Maxwell, Victoria McDougall, William McElrath, Kenneth Mikolajczyk, Michael Miron, Kristen Nellis, Timothy Newcomb, Thomas Newell, Kelly Nicholls, William Olson, Marilyn Orlich, Nancy Sonnon-Pechmann, Kristina Prescott, Cynthia Riesgraf, Nicolle Ristow, Lyn Ruetten, Ryan Rutten, Barbara Schellinger, Laura Schuster, Theresa Snodie, Kristen Soderlund, Suzanne Stennes-Rogness, Dorothy Sunne, Brenda Swanson, Larry Syverson, Sandra Teichner, Donald Thompson, Larry Tietje, Ronald Tungseth, Bradley Ward, Paul Wieland, Jeffrey Wilson, and Kelly Wing.

Century Junior High School—Mark Allaman, Sherri Alm, Penny Baker, Karleen Boettner, Susan Brown, Nancy Calkins, Katrina Callan, Patricia Cheyne, David Daniels, Steven Ekdahl, Reid Fore, Tiffany Freeman, Kristina Granias, Kristin Gustafson, Joel Hall, Michael Hall, Megan Halverson, Kathleen Hellen, Jennifer Hesse, Richard Hofstede, Kay Jackson, Bonnie Johnson, Brian Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Paul Kendrick, Glen King, Joy Kleppe, Carolyn Kluk, David Kryzer, Maury Laqua, Tracy Larson, Karen Lewis, Susan Lidstrom, Stephanie Lourey, William Loushine, Jeri Lovett, Michelle Lynch, Alice Lysaker, Geoff McLaughlin, Lance Meier, Joen Moen-Pearson, Kelly Nuss, Deborah Paul, James Pearson, Paulette Perkovich, Linnea Peterson, Lynn Randazzo, Brian Rigwald, Pamela Robson, Carol Rupar, Alecia Sand, Justin Sheider, Pamela Schultze, Jan Stauffer, Sandra Swenson, Vicky Trampe, Christopher Vogel, Scott Walcker, David Walker, Louise Walker, Lois Weber, Cynthia Weiss, and Edward Zweber.

Southwest Junior High School—Janelle Bernauer, Donald Bjerke, Margaret Burns-